



## Granite State Clean Cities Coalition (GSCCC) July/August 2020 Newsletter

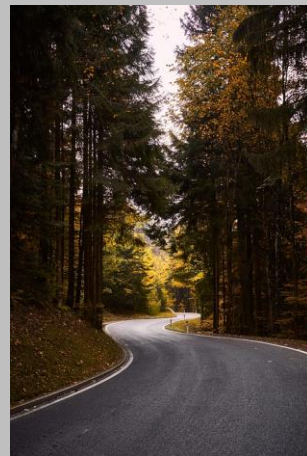
*Dear GSCCC stakeholders and partners ~*

*As we begin the transition from Summer to Fall, we are pleased to offer a cornucopia of opportunities to support your transition to cleaner, more efficient vehicles and transportation technologies.*

*This Coalition is comprised of pioneers, subject matter experts, technical wizards, and passionate supporters of alternative fuels and electric vehicles.*

*Please join us for any or all of the upcoming virtual events detailed below ... we look forward to "seeing" you there!*

*~Jessica*



**Register for a \*free\* Virtual Site Visit:**

# EVERSOURCE NH'S BIODIESEL BUCKET TRUCKS WITH BATTERY-POWERED AERIALS

*How one Utility is turning hybrid-electric JEMS® technology  
into their fleet's idle-mitigation gem!*

**September 17th | 2:00pm - 3:30pm**



Granite State & Vermont Clean Cities Coalitions,  
in collaboration with Drive Electric New Hampshire,  
are hosting a free Virtual Site Visit:

**Eversource NH's Biodiesel Bucket Trucks with Battery-Powered Aerials:**  
***How one Utility is turning hybrid-electric JEMS® technology  
into their fleet's idle-mitigation gem!"***

- Are you aware of your State (VT & NH) Idling Regulations?
- Is the cost of wasted fuel hurting your budget?
- Are you striving towards sustainable transportation or carbon-neutrality?
- Are you seeking clean tech solutions to modernize your fleet?

See a solution in action! Join us as we explore Eversource NH's use case and Altec's Jobsite Energy Management System (JEMS®), an idle-mitigation and telematics technology that uses stored electrical energy to power aerial devices, tools, exportable power, and control cab temperature.

Today we face a greater urgency to protect the air going into our lungs. Diesel exhaust from idling vehicles pollutes the air and wastes fuel ... costs no Fleet, Business, Town or City can afford. Hear from both the end-user and provider about how this exciting technology presents a real-world solution!

[Click to Register for the Virtual Site Visit](#)

## A Special Day for MTA!



On Thursday, August 13th, I donned a mask and headed to Manchester Transit Authority (MTA) for a very special celebration: A Press Event to celebrate MTA's latest alternative fuel project.

It was a bright August day, the heat rising in waves off the pavement, as I arrived and was greeted by MTA's amazing team: Karen Holden, a GSCCC Advisory Board Member and Assistant Director to School Operations, Mike Whitten, Executive Director, and Ryan Renauld-Smith, Assistant Director.

The anticipation was palpable as press, project partners and attendees gathered to hear more about MTA's procurement of 14 new propane fueled school buses and the installation of a propane fueling station. The importance of this project was underscored by the attendance of NH Governor Chris Sununu and Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig. I was pleased to be part of the agenda, joining these officials to celebrate MTA's recent commitment to powering their school buses with clean propane autogas.

In New Hampshire (NH), the transportation sector is the largest contributor to smog forming emissions and greenhouse gases. Since 2002, our Coalition of over 140 fleets, businesses, towns and cities, including MTA and their project partners, has been working to improve air quality and reduce petroleum use in transportation by promoting affordable, domestic alternative fuels like propane autogas, which is what we call propane that's used to fuel vehicles.



School Buses transport our most valuable resource ... our children. About 90% of school buses in NH are diesel powered, and, along with other heavy duty trucks and buses, school buses are one of the largest emitters of Nitrogen Oxide, or "NOx."

NOx contributes to summertime smog and poor ozone air quality days, and for human health, NOx emissions can trigger asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory inflammation. With the impacts of Covid-19 we face a critical need to protect the air going into our lungs!

Propane autogas school buses improve air quality by significantly reducing harmful NOx emissions. In real world testing, propane buses reduced NOx by 96% compared with today's "clean diesel" buses.

Additionally, diesel exhaust is a Group 1 carcinogen that is especially harmful to children, who breathe faster than adults and whose lungs are not fully developed. This is significant because they're coming face-to-face with tailpipe emissions every school day while boarding, riding on and exiting from diesel school buses!

Alternatively, propane fuel is non-poisonous to humans and non-toxic to the environment, posing no harm to water or soil.



Propane buses, which have been trusted for their safety since the 1980's, comply with strict Federal Motor Vehicle safety standards – in fact, Blue Bird, the maker of these propane school buses, requires them to not only pass rigorous crash testing to meet or exceed these safety standards, but also equips their bus engine systems with safety devices and automatic shut-off valves.

Propane autogas is a closed-loop system, which means the fuel is never exposed to air and will not spill. Additionally, propane autogas fuel tanks are 20 times more puncture-resistant than typical diesel or gasoline tanks. If the fuel ever did spill, it would simply dissipate into the air rather than pool on the ground like diesel or gasoline.

Cold weather is not a barrier to propane school bus operations as they need less time to warm up and are engineered to start in temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero (-50 degrees F), while the fuel in their diesel counterparts tends to gel up, requiring the use of costly engine pre-heating systems.

Compared to the clattering of a diesel engine, propane fueled engines have a much smoother operation. This provides a quieter environment and less distraction to the driver, supporting a safer experience for the students. The driver can be more alert to sounds and signals outside the bus — like emergency vehicles — and can pay closer attention to your children's needs.

For all of these reasons and more, I'm thrilled to commend Manchester Transit Authority for partnering with Anderson Blue Bird Bus Sales of New England and ROUSH CleanTech, three Coalition Stakeholders working together to replace 14 aging diesel school buses with clean-burning propane autogas, in support of cleaner air for NH.



I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of the NH Department of Environmental Services in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Strategic Initiatives, the Lead Agency for the Volkswagen (VW) Trust. Last summer, they developed a grant program for propane school buses. MTA submitted an application, and this project was



selected to receive \$750,000 in VW grant funding. MTA has wisely utilized that funding to procure these buses and has also partnered with another Coalition Stakeholder, Dead River Company, to install an on-site propane fueling station to keep them running efficiently.

Now more than ever, health and safety has got to be our number one priority ... MTA's propane school buses will get our children safely to school, and give them a leg up towards a healthier future!

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## **AltWheels Fleet Day Goes VIRTUAL!** **Monday, October 5, 2020**

AltWheels Fleet Day, the largest meeting of corporate and municipal Fleet Managers on the East Coast, consists of panels, exhibits, and vehicles offering a showcase of alternative transportation solutions. This year, AltWheels Fleet Day will go virtual which allows for exciting new opportunities for attendees, sponsors and speakers!

**[www.altwheels.org](http://www.altwheels.org)**

**Join us for AltWheels Fleet Day 2020!**

**As a member of the Planning & Organizing Committees,  
I can tell you that this 15th year is going to be extra special!  
Tune in for the latest in Alternative Fuel & Electric Vehicle efforts  
in the Northeast!**

**[Register for AltWheels](#)**

**[View AltWheels Agenda](#)**

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**CARB Makes Bold Move Toward Zero Emissions**

Todd Mouw, President of ROUSH CleanTech, recently shared the following article:

"In June, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) unanimously approved the Advanced Clean Truck Regulation. This bold step will accelerate California's transition to zero-emissions in all commercial fleet sectors. It's a historic and ambitious goal, and achieving it will be challenging.

The Advanced Clean Truck Regulation is a holistic approach to transition away from medium- and heavy-duty diesel vehicles to electric zero-emissions vehicles beginning in 2024.

The environmental goals are lofty. California faces challenging mandates to reduce air pollutants to protect public health and to meet state climate change targets. The mandates include:

- Meeting certain goals like federal health-based ambient air quality standards.
- Reducing greenhouse gases 40% by 2030, then 80% by 2050.
- Cutting petroleum use in half by 2030.

The regulation's projected economic benefits are substantial. The state expects to see \$8.9 billion in health savings from 2020 to 2040, with \$282 million added to state GDP by 2040. It also projects \$1.7 billion in avoided carbon dioxide emission and \$5.9 billion in industry savings by 2040.

In the coming months, CARB will release complementary regulations. One of these supporting actions will set a new limit on nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions. During the transition to electric trucks, it requires new trucks still operating on fossil fuels to include the most effective exhaust control technology like ROUSH CleanTech's 0.02g ultra-low NOx propane engine.

If you're not in the Golden State, why should you care? Traditionally, many other states closely monitor California regulations and adopt some version of the same rules and regulations. In fact, 15 states and Washington, D.C., have already signed an MOU to accelerate bus and truck electrification.



The future has never been brighter as companies leverage even more capabilities to respond to customer demands, solve global challenges, and meet current and future regulations."

## Announcing the 2020 Winners of the Green Fleet Awards!

The 2020 winners of the *Green Fleet Awards* will be announced in a FREE webinar on September 9, 2020 at 2pm EDT. Please tune in to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of the top green fleets and their teams.



Learn about best practices and new technologies from the top award-winning fleet managers that can help make your operations more efficient and environmentally friendly.

[Register for the FREE webinar today](#)

Please also take a moment to recognize the good work that you and/or your fellow fleet managers are doing by entering the *Green Garage Contest* - both governmental and commercial fleets can enter!

This is an opportunity to be recognized for your efforts in helping to create a cleaner environment and stronger economy. The contest is FREE to enter, and the deadline to enter is October 5th.

The winners of the *Green Garage Contest* will be announced on December 9th and published in a national fleet publication. Enter today!

[Click here to download the Green Garage Contest application](#)



### **\$0.50/GALLON ALTERNATIVE FUEL EXCISE TAX CREDIT**

A tax credit of \$0.50 is available for alternative fuel - such as natural gas and propane - that is sold for use or used as a fuel to operate a motor vehicle.

Click below for information:  
[Alt Fuel Excise Tax Credit](#)

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## **You might also be interested in ...**

- [Calculating TCO for Medium and Heavy-Duty EVs](#)
- [Propane Buses Can Provide Stability During Uncertainty](#)
- [What can the Evolution of Natural Gas Vehicles Teach us about the Future of Electric Trucks?](#)

## **Upcoming Webinars:**

- [Tuesday, September 8: Clean Transportation for All: Renewable Hydrogen Infrastructure](#)
- [Tuesday, September 22: Smart Charging and Real-World Applications](#)
- [Tuesday, October 13: Advances in Heavy-Duty Charging](#)

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### **Social Media Appeal - *Have you "liked" us?***

Are you on Facebook? Interested in what the Coalition has to say? Join the alternative fuel/advanced tech vehicle conversation, visit our [Facebook page](#) and click the link to "LIKE" us – 232 likes and counting!

Help us grow our following by:

1. "Liking" our page from your Facebook account.
2. If you think you've liked the page already, double-check – Did you know that "like" and "follow" are NOT the same thing? Some of you may have "followed" the page but still need to hit that thumbs-up button.
3. On our page, click on the "Invite Friends" button on the right-hand side. You'd be surprised how many people will like us with just that little nudge!
4. ... *and share our posts!*

*Thank you for reading – if there's something you'd like to see, say or share drop me a line: [Jessica.Wilcox@des.nh.gov](mailto:Jessica.Wilcox@des.nh.gov)*

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